

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**June 15, 2009**

**7:00 P.M**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, June 15, 2009, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Leslie Ryan, Davida Irving, and William Anderson were also present. Mr. Padien presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Ryan and thanked her for her five years of service.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (McGarry, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on May 18, June 2, and June 4, 2009, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (McGarry, Padien) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on June 4, 2009, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.**

## **New Business**

**A motion (Padien, Butcher) to amend the agenda and address the Dental Program so Monty Stover can another meeting carried with a**

**vote of 5-0.**

**Information on the school's dental program, including a program analysis and contracts for the current and next school years were submitted for School Committee information. Mr. Stover explained that the financial analysis is based on a calendar year and not the fiscal year as used by the school. The cost of the dental program was reduced from \$10,500 in 2006 to \$7,500 in 2007. However, because of the calendar vs. fiscal years, it will take until the 2008 analysis to show the \$7,500 cost. Mr. Stover submitted information on the new digital x-ray equipment, which provides significant improvement in diagnostic capabilities and identifying problems earlier.**

**The contracts for the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 school year were submitted for review. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 dental contracts with the Block Island Medical Center and authorize Sean McGarry to sign for the School Committee carried with a vote of 5-0.**

## **Reports**

**Sean McGarry stated that the Superintendent Search Committee, a diverse group of educators, community members, and administrators, met several times, reviewed 17 applications, conducted preliminary interviews, and put forward two candidates to the School Committee. The School Committee conducted the two interviews and Mr. McGarry stated that the search committee's job had been completed. A motion (McGarry, Padien) to absolve the**

**search committee carried with a vote of 5-0. Mr. Padien requested that letters of appreciation be sent to all committee members for their hard work.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that a nice graduation ceremony was held yesterday in the gym and the normal end of the year activities (beach picnics and final field trips) were taking place.**

**Nancy Cole presented the fiscal reports through April 30 and May 31, 2009, and pointed out any areas of concern. She anticipates more grant money coming in, stating she had just requested \$11,541.29 from the Rural Education Grant. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to accept the fiscal reports through April 30, 2009, and May 31, 2009, carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A memo from Dr. Anderson regarding the Memorandum of Agreement Block Island School has with South County Community Action, Inc. was submitted for School Committee review and approval. Dr. Anderson stated that this program has been in place for many years, but the federal government now wants it in writing. There are no changes over the previous years. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with South County Community Action and authorize William Anderson to sign it carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A technology report was received from Michele Spero, which**

included a status report for the period of April 1 – May 31, 2009, and an invoice for the same period. Several suggestions were made for the continuation of support services, including formalizing Hank Woodward's role and status as an employee and establishing an agreement between the town and the school if the school wishes to continue with Information Systems Technologies. Ms Spero also listed summer priorities.

### **Old Business**

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to reopen the 2008-2009 general operating budget to transfer monies between line items carried with a vote of 5-0.

At the present time various line items show a total shortfall of \$43,591. A sheet listing the line items that need more money and where the money could come from was submitted. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to change the 2008-09 budget by reducing the education department teachers salaries by \$35,500; reducing the aides, subs, others by \$4,091; reducing building department telephone by \$4,000; increasing equipment maintenance by \$100; increasing building equipment by \$165; increasing building maintenance by \$2,989; increasing fuel oil/propane by \$2,600; increasing payroll taxes by \$305; increasing custodians by \$3,982; increasing electricity by \$5,900; increasing maintenance contract/computer by \$3,572; increasing education travel by \$800; increasing special education by \$9,770; increasing administration payroll fees by \$84; increasing

**administration legal by \$3,621; increasing administration payroll taxes by \$690; increasing administration clerical by \$5,700; and increasing administration superintendent salary by \$3,313 carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Mr. McGarry stated that in the past line items were over expended and the committee waited for the auditor to make the changes. He thinks the committee taking time each month to move money is a much more fiscally responsible way to operate.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to close the 2008-09 general operating budget carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reopen and revise the 2009-2010 general operating budget carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Mr. Padien stated that he had met with Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Cole, Dr. Irving, and Dr. Anderson several times to revise and adjust line items in the 2009-2010 budget so it agrees with the amount given to us by the town and the state, a reduction of \$55,781. In the administration department increases were made to the wages/superintendent and payroll taxes, a contingencies line item was added, and the postage line item was reduced. In the education department reductions were made to wages/aides/subs/monitor, curriculum writing, principal's budget, supplies/classroom – elementary/middle, equipment maintenance, and sports, but the WB Mason line item was increased.**

**In the special education department reductions were made to the OT, psychologist, and extended school year line items. In the building department reductions were made to telephone/internet, electricity, and fuel oil. Reductions in the capital department included special education equipment. A lengthy and often confusing discussion was held while trying to ensure that the 2009-2010 budget was indeed balanced. A motion (Tretheway, Butcher) to approve the line item changes made to the 2009-2010 general operating budget as listed above carried with a vote of 4-1, with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

### **New Business**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to appoint Robert Hicks as the superintendent beginning July 1, 2009, carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Information on the positions needed for the upcoming extended school year, which begins June 29 and ends August 21, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. until approximately noon, was submitted for School Committee review. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to consent to the appointments of Victoria Carson and Kathleen Mello as special education teachers, Susan Morton as a clinical social worker, Donna Smith as the speech/language pathologist, Kathleen Schlenz as the occupational therapist, Summer Riker as school social worker, and Elizabeth Swienton as the teacher assistant carried with a vote of 4-1, with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

**Notifications were sent to the non-tenured teachers on February 27 stating that they would be notified by June 30, 2009, regarding a final decision on their teaching contracts for the 2009-2010 school year. A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to reappoint non-tenured teachers Joan Baker, Victoria Carson, Megan Hennessy, and Kathleen Mello for the 2009-2010 school year carried with a vote of 5-0. It was stated that Robert Closter, Jr., the adaptive physical education teacher, was not being reappointed because of certification issues.**

**A motion (Tretheway, Hall) to reappoint William Anderson as the Special Education Director for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and increase his salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to reappoint Patricia Balles as an administrative assistant for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to reappoint Pamela Buol as a teacher assistant for the 2009-2010 school year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Nancy Cole as the fiscal clerk for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Scott Comings as an educational consultant for the 2009-2010 school year and increase his salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Amy Doran Couet as a full-time custodian for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Matthew Coviello as a full-time custodian for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and increase his salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Lynne Cunningham as the office manager for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Amy Dugan as a teacher assistant for the 2009-2010 school year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Stacy Ferraro as a teacher assistant for the 2009-2010 school year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Elizabeth Gomes as the guidance counselor for the 2009-2010 school year and increase her salary by**



**three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Marsha Gutierrez as the administrative assistant to the superintendent for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Greta Heinz as a teacher assistant for the 2009-2010 school year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Davida Irving as the Block Island School Principal for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Bernice Johnson as a part-time custodian for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Toni Lemoine as a teacher assistant for the 2009-2010 school year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Lisa Robb as a teacher assistant for the 2009-2010 school year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Kelly Robertson as the Food Service Director for the 2009-2010 school year and increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Tretheway, Hall) to waive the facility use fee for the open basketball program provided by the recreation department during the month of June carried with a vote of 4-1, with Sean McGarry voting in negative.**

**Town Manager Nancy Dodge submitted the General Release form to the School Committee for review and approval. This form, once signed by the First Warden and the School Committee Chairman, would remise, release, and forever discharge Kenneth J. Filarski from any and all claims, debts, demands, obligations, liabilities, contracts, etc. including, but not limited to, any and all claims, including without limitation any claims and derivative claims, against Kenneth Filarski in the action presently pending in the Washington County Superior Court. Mr. McGarry stated he did not support settling the issue. Mr. Filarski's contempt and inability to be the architect put the project behind and cost the tax payers many additional dollars. This would have given us an avenue to recoup some of those funds. Mr. McGarry further stated that what Mr. Filarski did was criminal and he should have been removed from the accreditation agency for architects. Had the town council consulted with him he would never have supported their actions nor would he support the general**

release this evening. Mr. Padien stated that this is an emotional issue for him and he had difficulty putting his feelings into words. He had lived and breathed this whole project and did not agree with how the town settled it, nor did he agree with the judge. Mr. Padien had been advised by the attorney that, as the chairman and as a taxpayer, it was his responsibility to sign the release whether he agreed or not. Otherwise, it would open the door to a variety of actions. A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to execute the release and authorize the chair to sign carried with a vote of 4-1, with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

### **Calendar of Events**

The next regular meeting of the School Committee was scheduled for July 20. A motion (Padien, Hall) to change the next meeting to July 13 at 7:00 p.m. carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Correspondence**

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information, including a memo from Maintenance Supervisor Amy Doran requesting that the Recreation Department be responsible for cleaning the areas used for Camp Mohegan and supplying their own paper products. School Committee members felt this should be a discussion between the school administration and the town manager.

### **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:45 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: July 13, 2009**